



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

BASOL et al.

Serial No.: 10/017,494

Filed: December 7, 2001

Title: Planarity Detection Methods and  
Apparatus for Electrochemical Mechanical  
Processing Systems

Group Art Unit: 1763

Examiner: Culbert, Roberts P.

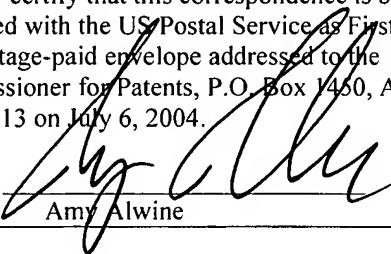
Docket: 042496/0277563

NT-229-US

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail in a postage-paid envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on July 6, 2004.

Signed:

  
Amy Alwine

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed April 6, 2004 with a shortened statutory period for response no later than July 6, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.